

# • COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXIII

OCTOBER, 1956

NUMBER 10

## More Colorado River Water Flowing Into Orange County

On Friday, October 19, ceremonies marking the coming of additional Colorado River water to Orange County for spreading purposes were held on the banks of the Santa Ana River where the water emptied into the river bed. The ceremony was attended by Metropolitan Water District and Orange County officials and several hundred citizens from the area.

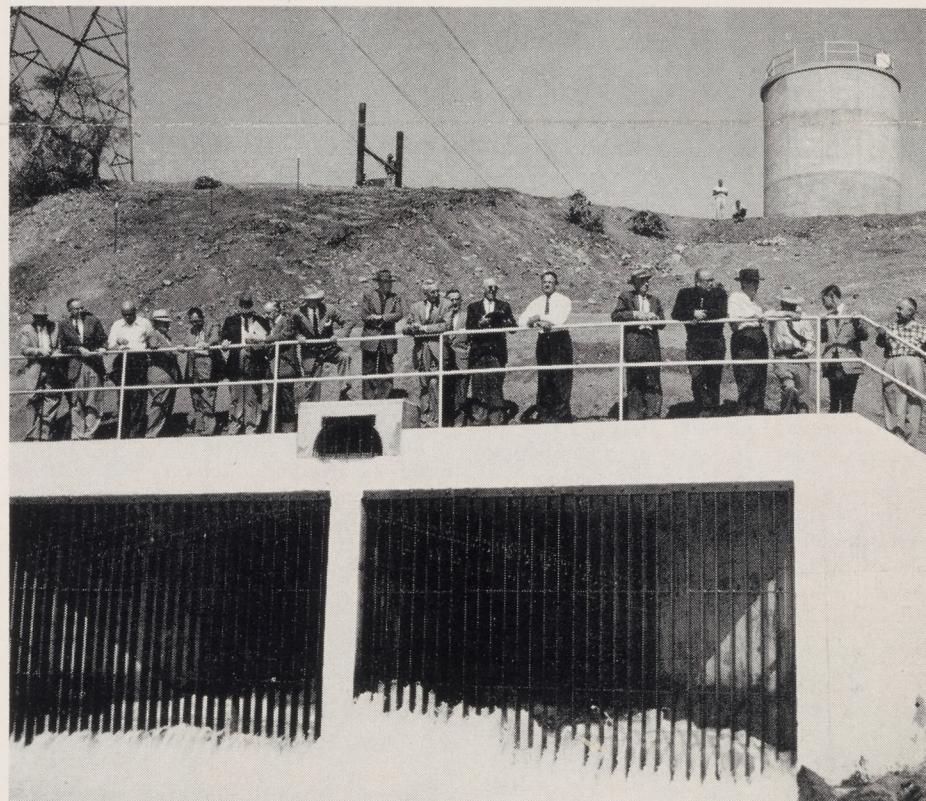
The water flows from outlet works on the aqueduct line at a point on the river just below Horseshoe Bend, about ten miles east of Fullerton. It flows directly into the Santa Ana River at a rate of more than 100 million gallons per day and creates a stream more than 60 feet wide.

Colorado River water is being poured into the Santa Ana River as a means of helping to replenish the seriously depleted underground basins in the Orange County area. As it flows down the river from below Horseshoe Bend it fans out into spreading basins and sinks underground. The Colorado River water is being delivered to the Orange County Municipal Water District, which is a part of the Metropolitan Water District.

A large part of Orange County, including all of its incorporated cities, is within the Metropolitan Water District, which extends into the four other Southern California counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside.

Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District, stated that at the end of October the Orange County Municipal Water District would have approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water remaining on order.

Mr. Diemer pointed out that the District also expects to sell about 70,000 acre-feet to the Los Angeles County



A number of District Board members and staff members are shown standing on top of the Spillway Discharge Pipeline Stilling Basin where Colorado River water is being emptied into the Santa Ana River bed about 10 miles east of Fullerton. The District Directors and employees were on hand to witness the dedication ceremonies marking the coming of additional Colorado River water to Orange County to assist in replenishing badly depleted underground basins.

Flood Control District for spreading purposes below Whittier Narrows. This water is being delivered when conditions permit and when the Flood Control District is able to take the water.

Following are excerpts from remarks made by Mr. Diemer at the dedication ceremony in Orange County:

"The Colorado River water that is being released from the Metropolitan Water District Aqueduct for spreading purposes in Orange County is of tremendous economic importance, not only to Orange County, but to all of Southern California. A large part of Orange County is within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water District and this

area is drawing heavily upon the District for increasing supplies of Colorado River water.

"The tremendous increase in assessed valuation of Orange County during the past year is an indication of its great and growing need for Colorado River water. The entire Metropolitan Water District showed an increase in assessed valuation during the past year of more than 12%. However, those portions of Orange County within the Metropolitan Water District and several other District areas experienced increases in assessed valuation considerably above the overall average. This means a sharp

(Continued on Page Two)

COLORADO RIVER  
**AQUEDUCT NEWS**  
 THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 West Third Street  
 Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

Vol. XXIII October, 1956 No. 10

## Board and Staff Members Inspect Aqueduct System

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, on October 19, 20 and 21, conducted a tour for District Board members and staff members over the main Colorado River Aqueduct and portions of the distribution system.

The party made the trip by bus and one of the stopovers the first day out was made on the banks of the Santa Ana River where the entire group attended ceremonies marking the coming of additional Colorado River water to Orange County to assist in replenishing badly depleted underground basins.

Following the dedication ceremony, the inspection party left for Lake Mathews where they were served an outdoor luncheon on the lawn overlooking the lake and the structures that are scheduled to be enlarged to double the capacity of the reservoir.

From Lake Mathews the party left for Palm Springs, stopping en route to inspect the San Jacinto Regulating Reservoir. At Palm Springs the group had dinner and spent the night at the El Mirador Hotel. Following an early breakfast on Saturday morning, the party was taken on a tour of Hayfield, Eagle Mountain and Iron Mountain Pumping Plants where they viewed the recently installed pumping units 4 and 5 and other new features.

The bus then departed for Gene Village where the group enjoyed a dinner at the mess hall and were interested spectators at a square dance staged in their honor by the District employees and families at Gene Village.

On Sunday, the Directors and staff members were taken for an inspection tour of the District's facilities at Gene and Intake Pumping Plants, including a boat ride on Copper Basin Reservoir. In the afternoon the party returned to Los Angeles following an interesting and enjoyable trip.

## Water for Orange County

(Continued from Page One)

increase in water needs.

"Water is now flowing into the Orange County spreading basins at the rate of more than 100 million gallons per day. The Orange County Municipal Water District, which is receiving this water, has requested 80,000 acre-feet of this water for spreading purposes. That is more than 26 billion gallons."

Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors, also addressed the group attending the ceremony. His statement follows:

"The tremendous increase in population and the industrial expansion now under way in all parts of the Metropolitan Water District cannot be supported except by the assurance of a large and dependable water supply from the Colorado River. Colorado River water now flowing into the Santa Ana River is being used to help replenish the dangerously depleted underground water basins of the Orange County area.

"Because of the protracted drought in Southern California and the tremendous increase in population and industry, it has required during the past year or more all available delivery capacity of the Colorado River Aqueduct to meet the consumers regular needs in factories and homes.

"The District now has a \$172,000,000 aqueduct construction program under way. The pumping facilities of all five aqueduct pumping plants are being increased so that we are now able to lift more Colorado River water over the mountain barriers than we were a year ago.

"Several months ago Mrs. Jensen and I visited a number of European countries. In every country or city where we found large construction programs under way, we invariably found a sound prosperity. We have in Orange County and in the rest of the District a perfect example of the bringing of a great new prosperity through a tremendous home and industrial construction program."

A large number of District Board members, officers and staff members attended the ceremony. Those present included Directors A. H. Allen, Glenn P. Allen, Robert E. Austin, Howard Boylan, Paul L. Burkhard, Warren W. Butler, Ransom W. Chase, Samuel J. Crawford, Milo Dellmann, W. C. Farquhar, Floyd E. Fischer, E. P. Hapgood, Nelson Hayward, W. B. Hellis, Joseph Jensen, Morris S. Jones, H. H. Kohlenberger, George W. Stevens, Hugh W.

(Continued on Page Four)

## For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed October, 1956 covering District operations for September, 1956.)

**Colorado River**—The water surface in Lake Mead fell 4.84 feet during September to elevation 1105.82 and the usable storage decreased 475,000 acre-feet to 12,791,000 acre-feet. The average rate of discharge at Parker Dam was 10,500 cubic feet per second, and the water surface elevation at Lake Havasu varied between 449.0 and 447.5.

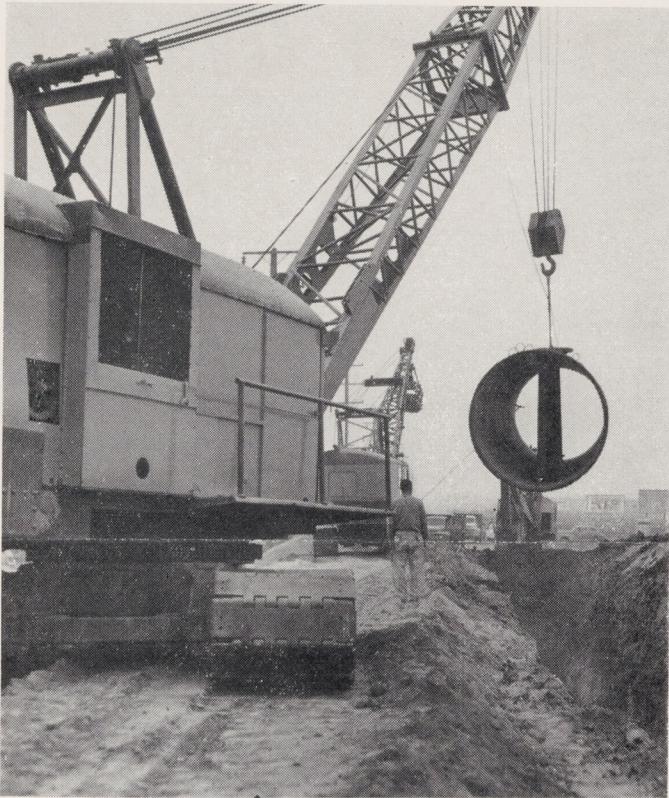
**Power and Pumping**—Pumping at Hayfield was continuous on a 4-pump basis throughout the month. A total of 47,276 acre-feet of water was delivered by the Hayfield plant. The District's share of Parker energy was 21,178,440 kWhrs, all of which was used in the District's own system. Peak delivery to and from the Edison Company was 77,000 and 115,000 kw, respectively.

**Weymouth Softening and Filtration plant**—Colorado River water was softened from 372 to 174 ppm at an average rate of 350 cfs. The daily rate of flow varied from 301 to 433 cfs.

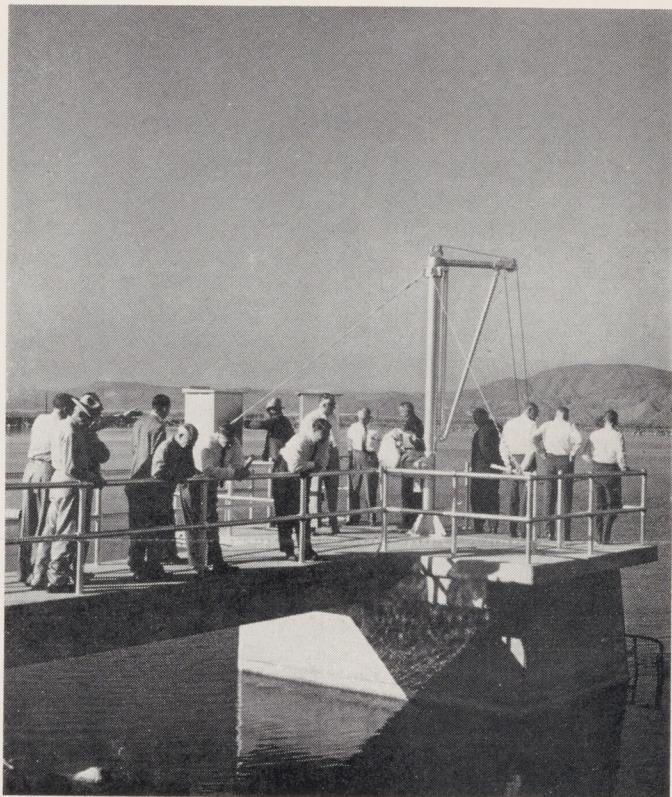
**Construction**—Progress on construction work during October was as follows: Schedule 61SC (West Orange County Feeder Extension) the contract is 85 percent complete; Schedule 79SC (Lower Feeder) 33 percent complete; Schedule 80SC (Lower Feeder) 50 percent complete; Schedule 53SC (Middle Cross-Feeder) 97 percent complete; and Schedule 56SC (Middle Feeder) 4 percent complete.

**Pumping Plant Expansion**—All work on the installation of Pumping Units Nos. 4 and 5 was completed on September 27, 1956. On the extension of pumping plant buildings, the contract is 15 percent complete. The contractor was placing concrete at Intake plant, preparing to erect structural steel at Gene plant, completed the demolition work and cleaning up preparatory to erecting steel at Iron Mountain and Eagle Mountain plants, and has just started demolition work at Hayfield plant. On furnishing and installing the elevator at Hayfield, no work has been done in the field but the contractor has been fabricating the platform and stairs in his shop.

**Purchasing**—The total expenditures covered by 336 purchase orders and 2 agreements approximated \$64,593 during October.



One of the many sights viewed by the Board of Directors on the inspection trip was this 79-inch welded steel pipe section being lowered into place on the lower feeder near Buena Park.



Members of the inspection party are shown on top of the outlet structure in the San Jacinto Regulating Reservoir where Colorado River water flows into the two barrels of the San Diego Aqueduct.



The inspection party is shown in front of delivery line number one at Hayfield Pumping Plant. Note how the giant delivery lines dwarf the large group. Seen at center is delivery line number two.



Here a number of Board and staff members enjoy a boat ride on Copper Basin Reservoir on Sunday morning, October 21. Following an inspection of the facilities in this area, the party returned home.

# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



ROBERT E. (BOB) WHALEY

Robert E. (Bob) Whaley has been named to the position of Superintendent of Pumping Plants, succeeding Ed Russell who retired on September 30.

Bob spent six and one-half years in the Navy from March, 1938 to November, 1944. He was a member of the crew of the U.S.S. Houston when the cruiser saw its first action in World War II. He was transferred to a hospital in Java and the Houston was later sunk in battle.

When Bob returned to civilian life, he entered the school of Engineering at the University of Southern California and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in January, 1950. He entered the employment of the District in March, 1950 as Engineering Aide.

With the exception of the period from October, 1952 to October, 1954, when he was in the Los Angeles office on design work in connection with the expansion of the pumping plants, he has been in the field on the operation and maintenance of the pumping plants. For the past two years he has been in charge of the installation of pump units four and five, reporting to the Superintendent of Pumping Plants.

The District Board of Directors approved his promotion effective October 1, 1956.

\* \* \*

Gregory Astuto, Junior Inspector on Construction, and Mrs. Astuto, are the proud parents of a lovely baby daughter

born on October 3. The young lady weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and has been named Celeste Ann.

\* \* \*

Harry F. Jahn, Senior Engineer, and his wife, Winifred, recently returned from a tour of Europe. They sailed from New York on August 29 aboard the Queen Elizabeth. They stopped first in England and then visited Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. They returned to the United States on the Queen Mary and encountered some pretty rough weather on the way.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. James Moser have a baby daughter born back on May 15 in Los Angeles. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and is named Carri Ann. James is a Utility Man at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant.

\* \* \*

Eddie Dussaman, Station Chief at Iron Mountain, has been appointed to the Needles High and Elementary School Board of Trustees. He replaces Walter Noah who moved out of the School District.

\* \* \*

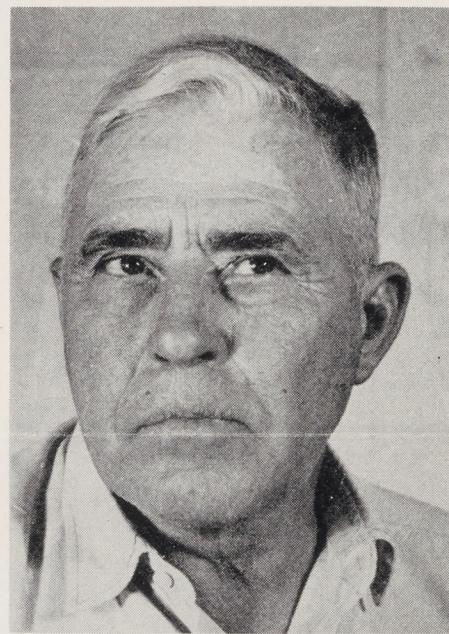
William Chunn, Maintenance Helper at Iron Mountain, and Mrs. Chunn welcomed a baby daughter to the family on August 25. She was born in Bakersfield weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and has been named Mary Louise.

(Continued from Page Two)

Stiles, Claire S. Thompson and Frank H. Wheelock.

Also in attendance were three members of the California State Water Resources Board. They were Clair A. Hill, Chairman of the Board, Kenneth Q. Volk, and Everett Grubb.

Officers and staff members attending included Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer; James H. Howard, General Counsel; R. A. Skinner, Assistant Chief Engineer; E. W. Rockwell, Chief Electrical Engineer; A. W. McKinlay, Controller; Donald M. Keith, Deputy General Counsel; Henry J. Mills, Construction Engineer; Don J. Kinsey, Assistant to the General Manager; C. C. Elder, Hydrographic Engineer; A. L. Gram, Executive Secretary; H. V. Crawshaw, Office Engineer; Maynard Anderson, Senior Engineer; Rufus S. Fee, Field Secretary; Eugene Reynolds, Superintendent of Transportation; and Louis Chazaro, Senior Photographer-Blueprinter.



SAMUEL A. WILSON—20 Years of Service

Samuel A. Wilson became eligible for his 20-year service pin on September 19, 1956. He came to work for the District as a Laborer on the construction of the San Jacinto tunnel on December 29, 1935.

He worked on this tunnel until 1939 in a variety of capacities including Pumpman, Brakeman, Driller, Miner and Mechanic.

After a nine-months' absence, due to reduction in forces, he was re-employed on the operation and maintenance of the Distribution system. Since 1948, Sam has been a Maintenance Helper at Morris Reservoir.

\* \* \*

The District's Community Chest drive got off to a flying start on October 2 with the showing of a film "These Hands are Yours" in the basement of the District office. James C. Kenny, a Director of the Community Chest, addressed the District employees.

\* \* \*

Loretta and Ted Kieffer became parents for the second time on October 20 when a baby girl was born to them in Needles. The new daughter weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and has been named Karen Ann. Ted is a Utility Man at Iron Mountain.

\* \* \*

Glen Smith, Associate Engineer, is also a proud papa for the second time. His latest was a boy born on October 18. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and is named Roark David.